

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Withdrawn) A method for connecting two or more members, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a housing comprising a first bore and a second bore, wherein said first bore includes a retaining device that holds at least a portion of said first bore in a radially expanded state;

inserting a first member into said first bore; inserting a second member into said second bore; and removing said retaining device from said first bore such that said first bore contracts around said first member;

wherein said inserting a second member may be performed prior to or after said decoupling of said retaining device.

2. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

inserting a connection device into a third bore for connecting said first member to said second member.

3. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said first member and said second member comprises a plurality of members coupled together.

4. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said first member and said second member comprises an electrical cable.

5. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein said first member comprises an electrical cable coupled to a metallic lug.
6. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 5, wherein said metallic lug has a larger outside diameter than said electrical cable.
7. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein said second member comprises a mating device.
8. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein said second member comprises an electrical cable coupled to a mating device.
9. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein said housing comprises Ethylene Propylene Diene Monomer ("EPDM").
10. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein said housing comprises an elbow configuration.
11. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein a diameter of said first bore is radially expanded.
12. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein said retaining device comprises a core.
13. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein removing said retaining device comprises sliding said retaining device out of said first bore.

14. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein said retaining device is covered by a thin film.

15. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 14, wherein said thin film comprises mylar.

16. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 15, wherein said thin film is folded over said retaining device.

17. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein said retaining device comprises nylon.

18. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein said retaining device comprises polyvinylchloride.

19. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein said retaining device comprises polycarbonate.

20. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein said retaining device comprises polypropylene cord wound in a cylindrical configuration; and wherein each radial section of said polypropylene cord is coupled to an adjacent radial section of said polypropylene cord for retaining said cylindrical configuration.

21. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein said retaining device comprising a reinforcement structure.

22. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 21, wherein said reinforcement structure comprises a ring-like structure.
23. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein said retaining device is coupled to an interior of said first bore.
24. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein said retaining device is coupled to an exterior of said first bore.
25. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein said first bore is cylindrical.
26. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein said first bore comprises a tube having a varying diameter along its length.
27. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein said second bore is tapered.
28. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 2, wherein said connection device is a threaded mating device.
29. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for connecting two or more members, said apparatus comprising:
- a housing comprising at least a first bore and a second bore arranged at a positive angle to each other;
- wherein said first bore comprises a retaining device for holding at least a portion of said first bore in a radially expanded state;

a first member inserted into said first bore; and a second member inserted into said second bore;

wherein removing said retaining device from said first bore causes at least a portion of said first bore to contract around said first member;

wherein the retaining device can be slid out of said first bore.

30. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 29, further comprising:

a connection device inserted into said second bore for connecting said first member to said second member.

31. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said second bore comprises:

a second retaining device for holding at least a portion of said second bore in a radially expanded state;

wherein removing said second retaining device from said second bore causes said second bore to contract around said second member.

32. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein at least one of said first member and said second member comprises a plurality of members coupled together.

33. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein at least one of said first member and said second member comprises an electrical cable.

34. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said first member comprises an electrical cable coupled to a metallic lug.

35. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 34, wherein said metallic lug has a larger outside diameter than said electrical cable insulation.

36. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said second member comprises a mating device.

37. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said second member comprises an electrical cable coupled to a mating device.

38. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said housing is fabricated of Ethylene Propylene Diene Monomer ("EPDM").

39. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said housing comprises a "T" configuration or a 600 ampere class elbow connector.

40. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein a diameter of said first bore is radially expanded.

41. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said retaining device comprises a core.

42. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~82~~29, wherein said retaining device can be slid out of said first bore.

43. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said retaining device is covered by a thin film.

44. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 43, wherein said thin film comprises mylar.

45. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 44, wherein said thin film is folded over said retaining device.

46. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said retaining device comprises nylon.

47. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said retaining device comprises polyvinylchloride.

48. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said retaining device comprises polycarbonate.

49. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said retaining device comprises polypropylene cord wound in a cylindrical configuration; and wherein each radial section of said polypropylene cord is coupled to an adjacent radial section of said polypropylene cord for retaining said cylindrical configuration.

50. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said retaining device comprising a reinforcement structure.

51. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 50, wherein said reinforcement structure comprises a ring-like structure.

52. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said retaining device is coupled to an interior of said first bore.

53. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said retaining device is coupled to an exterior of said first bore.

54. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said first bore is cylindrical.

55. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said first bore comprises a tube having a varying diameter along its length.

56. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said second bore is tapered.

57. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said connection device is a threaded mating device.

58. (Withdrawn) A method for terminating cables, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a housing comprising at least first, second, and third bores, at least a portion of said first bore including a removable core having a bore therethrough, said core holding said first bore in a radially expanded state;

coupling a cable to a metallic lug;

inserting said coupled cable and metallic lug into said removable core;

inserting a first mating device and a second mating device into said second and third bores to connect to said metallic lug; and

removing said core from said first bore such that said first bore contracts around said cable.

59. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 58, wherein said metallic lug has a larger outside diameter than said cable insulation.

60. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 58, wherein said housing comprises Ethylene Propylene Diene Monomer ("EPDM").

61. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 58, wherein a diameter of said first bore is radially expanded.

62. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 58, wherein said removable core comprises a rigid core.

63. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 62, wherein said rigid core is covered by a thin film.

64. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 63, wherein said thin film comprises mylar.

65. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 62, wherein said thin film is folded over said rigid core.

66. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 58, wherein said removable core comprises polypropylene cord wound in a cylindrical configuration; and wherein each radial section of said polypropylene cord is coupled to an adjacent radial section of said polypropylene cord for retaining said cylindrical configuration.

67. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 58, wherein said housing further comprises a reinforcement structure.

68. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 67, wherein said reinforcement structure comprises a ring-like structure.

69. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 58, wherein said removable core is coupled to an interior of said first bore.

70. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 58, wherein said removable core is coupled to an exterior of said first bore.

71. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 58, wherein said first bore is cylindrical and said second bore is tapered.

72. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 58, wherein said second mating device is rotated to a specified torque.

73. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for terminating a cable to one or more devices, said apparatus comprising:

a housing having a 600 ampere class elbow connector configuration comprising a first bore and a second bore;

a support core inserted into at least a portion of said first bore of said housing for holding at least a portion of said first bore in a radially expanded state;

a cable coupled to a metallic lug for insertion into said first bore;

a first mating device for insertion into at least a portion of said second bore of said housing; and a second mating device for insertion into said second bore;

wherein said support core comprises nylon cord wound in a cylindrical configuration;

wherein said second mating device couples to said metallic lug and said first mating device; and

wherein removing said support core by pulling an end of said nylon cord causes said first bore to seal with said cable and said metallic lug.

74. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 73, wherein said metallic lug has a larger outside diameter than said cable insulation.

75. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 73, wherein said housing comprises Ethylene Propylene Diene Monomer ("EPDM").

76. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 73, wherein a diameter of said first bore is radially expanded.

77. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 73, wherein said second bore is tapered.

78. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 73, wherein said nylon cord has a thickness of 0.125 inch to 0.250 inch.

79. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 73, wherein said nylon cord comprises extruded nylon or polypropylene tube; and wherein each radial section of said nylon cord is coupled to an adjacent radial section of said nylon cord for retaining said cylindrical configuration.

80. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 73, wherein said first bore is cylindrical and said second bore is tapered.

81. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 73, wherein said connection device is a threaded mating device.

82. (New) An apparatus for connecting two or more members, said apparatus comprising:

a housing comprising at least a first bore and a second bore arranged at a positive angle to each other;

wherein said first bore comprises a retaining device for holding at least a portion of said first bore in a radially expanded state;

a first member inserted into said first bore; and a second member inserted into said second bore;

wherein removing said retaining device from said first bore causes at least a portion of said first bore to contract around said first member;

wherein said retaining device is covered by a thin film.

83. (New) The apparatus according to claim 82, further comprising:

a connection device inserted into said second bore for connecting said first member to said second member.

84. (New) The apparatus according to claim 82, wherein said second bore comprises:

a second retaining device for holding at least a portion of said second bore in a radially expanded state;

wherein removing said second retaining device from said second bore causes said second bore to contract around said second member.

85. (New) The apparatus according to claim 82, wherein at least one of said first member and said second member comprises a plurality of members coupled together.

86. (New) The apparatus according to claim 82, wherein at least one of said first member and said second member comprises an electrical cable.

87. (New) The apparatus according to claim 82, wherein said first member comprises an electrical cable coupled to a metallic lug.

88. (New) The apparatus according to claim 87, wherein said metallic lug has a larger outside diameter than said electrical cable insulation.

89. (New) The apparatus according to claim 82, wherein said second member comprises a mating device.

90. (New) The apparatus according to claim 82, wherein said second member comprises an electrical cable coupled to a mating device.

91. (New) The apparatus according to claim 82, wherein said housing is fabricated of Ethylene Propylene Diene Monomer ("EPDM").

92. (New) The apparatus according to claim 82, wherein said housing comprises a "T" configuration or a 600 ampere class elbow connector.

93. (New) The apparatus according to claim 82, wherein a diameter of said first bore is radially expanded.

94. (New) The apparatus according to claim 82, wherein said retaining device comprises a core.

95. (New) The apparatus according to claim 82, wherein said thin film comprises mylar.

96. (New) The apparatus according to claim 82, wherein said thin film is folded over said retaining device.

97. (New) The apparatus according to claim 82, wherein said retaining device comprises nylon.

98. (New) The apparatus according to claim 82, wherein said retaining device comprises polyvinylchloride.

99. (New) The apparatus according to claim 82, wherein said retaining device comprises polycarbonate.

100. (New) The apparatus according to claim 82, wherein said retaining device comprises polypropylene cord wound in a cylindrical configuration; and wherein each radial section of said polypropylene cord is coupled to an adjacent radial section of said polypropylene cord for retaining said cylindrical configuration.

101. (New) The apparatus according to claim 82, wherein said retaining device comprising a reinforcement structure.

102. (New) The apparatus according to claim 101, wherein said reinforcement structure comprises a ring-like structure.

103. (New) The apparatus according to claim 82, wherein said retaining device is coupled to an interior of said first bore.

104. (New) The apparatus according to claim 82, wherein said retaining device is coupled to an exterior of said first bore.

105. (New) The apparatus according to claim 82, wherein said first bore is cylindrical.

106. (New) The apparatus according to claim 82, wherein said first bore comprises a tube having a varying diameter along its length.

Appln. Serial No. 10/824,151
Response filed August 18, 2005
Response to Office Action dated April 20, 2005

107. (New) The apparatus according to claim 82, wherein said second bore is tapered.

108. (New) The apparatus according to claim 83, wherein said connection device is a threaded mating device.